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AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th April, to the 20th May, 1814.

So much rain fell at intervals during the last month, as greatly retarded the sowing of oats; in some of the late cold districts, they have been at least a month behind the usual time of sowing.

There are some complaints of the oats that were sown in Autumn in particular situations; but in some parts of the country those crops appear favourable, so that upon the whole, they may be expected to average a fair crop.

The wheat in general has been more backward in growth than usual, but has assumed a better appearance since the commencement of the present month: yet, if the very dry parching weather that has lately set in proves of long continuance, the crops may be expected to receive injury from it, especially the late sown ones.

The flax sowing has been got accomplished in pretty good time. A considerable portion of the seed was of Irish growth, and will probably turn out better than the foreign. It is of great consequence to have the seed new, which did not appear to be the case with a great part of the imported. Many samples of Irish seed were produced in the markets much superior to the foreign, and was preferred before it by the best judges although at a higher price. Indeed the abundant crops procured from home-saved seed for the last two years, has so established its character, that it may be reasonably expected the farmers will for the future save so much as may be sufficient for their own use, and render the country less dependent on foreign supplies.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Sufficient time has not elapsed to allow trade to return within its accustomed bounds, and till it regularly subsides within its banks, speculation will still interrupt the equable course. It is yet uncertain in what manner the commercial relations will be settled with France. A tariff was published in France quite in favour of Britain. Another has succeeded materially different, and less favourable. By the latter, the importation of woollens into France is prohibited, and the duty raised considerably on other articles. It is said that the French excel in woollens and in leather, especially in the colours of the former, and that a great rivalry may take place in our home markets, if the French manufactures are admissible with us.

It was stated as probable in our last report, that the national banks would not be likely to resume their cash payments at the expiration of six months from the signing of the definitive treaty of peace. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has in the house of Commons given an answer of the like purport, to a question which was put to him. Gold bullion fell last month about 2s. per oz. But it will require a long course of trade to bring back the guineas by an exchange operating in an inverted ratio from its former course on the continent. The want of the usual return of American remittances will retard the process. But the fall in bullion on the prospect of peace, affords a proof that the high prices of gold proceeded from an excessive expenditure and the unfavourable course of exchange, and not from the small quantities used in manufactures; for this latter cause, if it really influenced the price of bullion, would operate in peace as well as in war. But even if peace take place, producing a more favourable exchange, and lessening the expenditure, yet one cause will remain to continue the depreciation in the large issue still necessary to pay the interest of the national debt. Peace may lessen the present high rate of depreciation, but it will not probably restore the equilibrium between bank paper and guineas, or enable the banks to resume their payments in cash.*

* The editor of the Newry Telegraph with his characteristic self-sufficiency, has animadverted on the remarks subjoined in a note to the last commercial report. He deals in abuse, and not in proof; as it is easier to call the arguments of his opponents "frivolous and absurd," than to prove them to be so. By such a line of proceeding, he shows his want of temper, but not a sound judgment. If assertion, without proof and strong boasts of "his unquestionable authority and clear demonstrations," were sufficient arguments, he might be said to have made good his point.

It has been generally taken for granted, that the repeal of the embargo and non-importation laws introduced into the Congress of the American states, on the message of the President, is pacific, and preparatory to concessions on the part of America. The contrary supposition of its being a war measure appears more probable, and that the measure arises from a desire to interest the Russians in the rights of neutrals, and against a system of paper blockades. If these laws are repealed, the Americans then afford to the Russians and other maritime powers an opportunity of becoming carriers of American produce, and of bringing to them the manufactures of Europe, and thus interest them as neutral powers. The same questions will then arise between them and Britain, as formerly existed between America and Britain.

The discussion in parliament on the corn laws occupies very general attention in Great Britain. One bill has passed through the house of Commons, allowing a free export of grain. Another laying a progressive duty on importation is before the house. Many petitions are pouring in against these measures, and it is probable the latter bill will be deferred to next session, to allow more time for discussion. It is a struggle between the landed and manufacturing interests. The former, by keeping up the prices of the produce of land in peace, wish to retain the high rents they obtained during the war. The landholder in his turn, is pressed severely by the weight of taxes, and can ill afford to lower his rental. An inequality pervades the system now attempted to be introduced. The land-holder is secured against grain falling too low; but there is no adequate security to the manufacturer against prices occasionally rising too high.

During the latter part of the market, flaxseed advanced considerably. The demand was greater than last year, and a much larger quantity appears to have been sown.

A meeting of noblemen and gentlemen and linen-draper was lately held in Dungannon, Lord Northland in the Chair, to memorial the Board of Trade against taking off the transit duty on foreign linens. A memorial was prepared, which, among other things stated, that a large proportion of the population of Ulster consisted of manufacturers of linens. This paragraph was expunged, on an objection being made by a gentleman, that it appeared to hold out a threat to government. Degrading timidity is thus infused into the counsels of tradesmen, when they call in the aid of noblemen and gentlemen. This is a characteristic trait of the servility of the times.

Exchange has rated through this month from 6 to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

On the 2d, the Moon is on the meridian at midnight, having then Antares below her to the west, though she rose before that star, which, as teachers will point out to their pupils in astronomy, is owing to her northern latitude. An hour and a quarter after is full Moon.

On the 8th, the Moon rises near midnight, after the fourth of the Goat, which star she passed at seven minutes past nine in the evening; and during the morning of the 9th, the chief stars near her are the four small ones in the tail of the Goat, from which, she is receding.

On the 15th, the Moon rises under Venus, who is now between her and the first of the Ram: near to, but above her, to the west, is the twelfth of the Whale

His dogmatical assertions may pass currently among his little circle of admirers; but in a fair court of public inquiry, they avail not. The point at issue between him and the commercial reporter lies in a narrow compass. He asserts there is no depreciation, but that the rise on gold and silver bullion arises from the quantities used in manufactures. The reporter, on the other hand, considers there is a real depreciation, owing to an unfavourable course of continental exchange, and the excessive issues to answer an enormous war expenditure, and to pay the interest of the national debt. Arguments to be availing in this controversy should bear on those points. There is no end to producing extraneous matter. The reporter is ready to enter on a discussion of the reasons he has alleged, but he declines to be led into a wide field of abuse, and into points not connected with the subject. No answer has yet been given to his doctrine of exchanges, and the too large issues of bank paper.